TARC NEWSLETTER

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

DECEMBER, 1996

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Marty Coin WD4JNM 264-9447
V.PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building
TARC Nets: VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910
Friendship - Thursdays at 1830 hrs on 146.910
Mosquito - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC Repeaters: VHF - 146.910 and 146.970. UHF - 444.150

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

I am honored to have been reelected President of your club for another year. While I thank you for your vote I must ask you for your council and support during 1997 to carry out the programs this club undertakes. We all agree that the measure of success of club endeavors depends on the willingness, participation and support of all TARC members.

During 1996, we as a club had a lot of fun and achieved most of our goals. My thanks to the officers and board members who served the club so well. To the TARC committees and club members who have given so much of their time in supporting our club's activities, a big thanks to each of you.

I congratulate the club on the selection of officers and board members elected to serve during 1997. The officers for 1997 are:

President	Bud Hughes K4CWG
V.President	Pike Abell W4EPU
Secretary	Marty Coin WD4JNM
Treasurer	Clyde Lee K4EOS
Board of Directors:	Nancy Marsden KD4ITX
	Alan Marsden KC4UU
	John Renninger KE4ZPA
	Warren Murray KS4GP
	Les Griner K4SJC
	Jerry Russell KC4UFI
	Dave McLean WB4SIG
	Larry Carr WB9MFJ

The Sunday morning bike ride at Black Point is turning up some interesting scenery. This past Sunday we were entertained by a beautiful owl. Alan and Nancy Marsden were treated to the viewing of a real live panther. I bet that was a sight to behold. The 7+ mile ride is good exercise and for those who would like to come out, I just know you will enjoy the company and become a regular rider.

Remember the TARC Christmas dinner on December 21 at the Jaycee Building at 6:00 PM. The cost of the dinner is $7.00 per person. Ralph Hall will install the 1997 officers, and Clara Abell has some fun things planned for all. For tickets see Sherry, Clara or yours truly. Make your reservations prior to December 15. Don't forget to bring a gift ($5 value). Woman to woman - man to man. This dinner replaces the regular 4th Tuesday December meeting.

Best Holiday Wishes to one and all.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DEC. 2 WB4ZUZ THERESA VALEK
DEC. 2 KD4LDR BILL DIMEO
DEC. 3 KS4FB TED LARRABEE
DEC. 4 AD4PC DICK SHORE
DEC. 5 KF4AZN KEN WATSON, JR.
DEC. 6 N4LEM RAY KASSIS
DEC. 7 KF4HTC SHERRY HUGHES
DEC. 8 WN4YKC DON HATFIELD
DEC. 8 KE4KCT CHARLES FROST
DEC 9 KC4VIKO JOSE RAMOS
DEC. 10 KC4UUX ALAN MARSDEN
DEC. 11 KE4RIV CHUCK MANION
DEC. 11 K4BJS GLENN LEE
DEC. 11 KC4UFI JERRY RUSSELL
DEC. 12 AF4N WES WHITLEY
DEC. 15 KF4IGO JUNE FOSTER
DEC. 16 W0LRC COFFEE COFFMAN
DEC. 18 AC4DY TOM BURNS
DEC. 19 KE4ICM RANDY WADE
DEC. 20 KE4WWO MATTIE ADAMS
DEC. 20 KE4MWY DAN CHYCOTA
DEC. 20 N4KXH KEN WINDHAM
DEC. 20 KE4MXA NOEL ELLIXSON
DEC. 21 KD4RLT WILLIAM MERRILL
DEC. 24 N4SCY OZZIE OSBORNE
DEC. 24 KE4SXU JOAN HOAG
DEC. 24 KD4VFQ KAY WATSON
DEC. 25 W2STS JESS LEGRAND
DEC. 29 KE4EJ SANDY WHITLEY
DEC. 31 KF4AZP JOHN EDWARDS
DEC. 31 AD4CU PAT PATTERSON

ON THE AIR
FOR A 'LITTLE' OVER $100

By Paul Jordan KL0AN

I don't consider myself a "cheap" person, but I do like to get great quality at the lowest price I can find. I don't even mind getting an older model of something to save on funds. That's why I decided to get into 2 Meter as cheap as possible and I bought a used Icom 2AT for $100 (shipped). I thought that was a pretty darn good price. It came with a wall and cigarette charger and was in very good condition.

The first time I fired up my radio I decided to test it and tuned in the AARC repeater at 146.88. I heard plenty of chatter and the occasional repeater beep. I keyed up and tested my new rig and couldn't make that repeater come on for anything. I frantically tried a few of the other repeaters and still nothing. Well, this was when I learned about PL toners, tone boards, and the lack of one in my 2AT. After a couple of 1-800 calls I had one on the way for about $32.

That weekend I took my radio on a hunting trip and after about four hours of tromping through the woods, I stopped on top of a hill to see if I could hear anyone and found that to be quite impossible without a battery. Yep, you guessed it. Those darn things just slid right of and hit the ground without a sound. A couple more 1-800 calls, another $40, battery in route.

O.K., so now I have my PL tone board installed (I still owe my neighbor a big favor for that) and my new battery installed (and duct taped to my radio) and I'm really working the radio whenever I'm in town, but whenever I'm at Eielson I can't get anyone.

"Hmmm", I say to myself, "The AARC Hamfest is coming. Maybe I'll find a good antenna there." Well, lo and behold, I found a real nice antenna there for $30. Oh, and I found a nice little clip-on microphone/speaker for about $25, too.

One thing that bothered me at that Hamfest was the price of a new Standard radio. It was only $178 and had a lot of bells and whistles. So far, on my 'cheap' Icom 2AT I've spend $227 plus a big favor. If anyone tells my wife, I'll plead temporary insanity.

A lot of fellow hammers keep asking when I'm going to upgrade to General class and get up on 10, 20, 40 meters. They say it's great to be able to talk all over the world. I'm thinking, "Hmmm, maybe with my dividend check, I'll be able to afford a 'cheap' rig...."

Ed. Note: Paul Jordan is the son of Kay KE4MXF and Jo KE4AEB Jordan. Paul is in the Air Force, stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska.

FROM THE BEARchair

By Ira Bickham K8HRR

I've been asked many times just what or who is BEARS. I'm not sure I know ALL that BEARS is, but I will explain it in this way. The support agencies (County Government, Red Cross, Salvation Army) wanted a single point of contact for the amateurs and not have to go to different people for help. These agencies are all county wide and the Special Services Ham Clubs are area wide and not able to support the entire county. So a consortium of these ham groups was developed to provide this single point of contact, and we called ourselves "The Brevard County Emergency Amateur Radio Services" - BEARS for short. This provides for s.p.o.c. and lets each of the clubs do their own thing while still providing county wide support.

Members of this group include any organized body of amateurs in the county that has a membership of ten or more to send a representative to the BEARS meetings where they will be able to participate in the BEARS business and have a vote on the actions. Included are both ARES and RACES personnel. ARES and/or RACES cards are used to identify participating members.

The county has been divided into three separate areas for emergency operations and the responsibility for operations has been assigned to the largest area club, i.e. North: Titusville. Central: Indian River. South: Platinum Coast. Each with its own area or club E.C., who are responsible to the club as well as the county BEARS organization.

At the present BEARS is being incorporated as a 501-C-3 organization to allow us to raise funds for equipment and group support so as not to be a financial burden to the participating groups.

BEARS meets once a month at 1900 hours at Fire House 43 on Merritt Island south of the airport. Presently we have a combined RACES and ARES badged membership of about 600 persons. Membership is open to all wishing to register and we are happy to accept your application.

See your area or county E.C. or A.E.C. for further information.

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK

By Art Brittingham W4MPT

Almost everyone has an interest in the history of the Titanic, the 'unsinkable ship', that struck an iceberg and sank on April 15, 1912. The recent unsuccessful attempt to raise a 20 ton piece of the ship stimulated interest and resulted in numerous articles and media coverage. Even Cartoons - one of which showed a model of the Titanic in a bottle - the bottle was filled with water!

The tragic event did awaken the world to the value of wireless. The 706 people who survived owed their lives mainly to radio and the two wireless operators, Jack Phillips and Harold Bride. The distress call sent by the Titanic brought the liner "Carpathia" racing to the scene; too late to rescue the swimmers, but in time to rescue survivors in lifeboats.

Phillips and Bride were employees of the Marconi Marine Co. and graduates of the Marconi Training School at Liverpool. The ship's radio equipment was manufactured and installed by the Marconi Marine Co. The Titanic's wireless station, operating under the call letters MGY, was the most modern and powerful possessed by any merchant ship afloat with the exception of her sister ship, the "Olympic". The daytime range varied from 250 to 400 miles, and at night the station occasionally contacted other stations 2000 miles away. The receiver included the Marconi multiple tuner and the Marconi magnetic detector. The magnetic detector was developed in 1901 and employed a moving band of iron wires wound on the periphery of two wooden discs, one of which was driven by a clockwork motor wound by hand. The moving band was pulled through two coils. An inner coil connected in series with the antenna and ground, and the other coil in series with the headphones. The magnetic detectors were less sensitive than the crystal detectors which soon replaced them.

The detector and tuner covered all wavelengths between 300 and 2500 meters. The receiver and transmitter used the same T type antenna supported by two masts 200 ft. high and 600 ft. apart. The earth connection was made by an insulated cable clamped to the hull of the ship.

The transmitter, using a rotary spark gap transformer, and condenser was powered by a 5 kW motor generator fed from the 110 volt DC ship's lighting system. Late on Friday night, the 12th, the two operators discovered that something was wrong with the transmitter and initially suspected one of the condensers. Six hours later, they discovered a short in the transformer secondary caused by an insulation breakdown. Repairs were made by wrapping the shorted lead with insulated tape. (In my opinion, this incident could have been a contributing factor in the demise of the Titanic).

Both Phillips and Bride were very tired after repairs had been made. Normal traffic was backed up, and in an attempt to catch up with the news and passengers telegrams, several ice reports from other ships were ignored or put aside. In one attempt to advise the Titanic of dangerous ice conditions, the radio operator on the S.S.Californian was told by Phillips to, "shut up, shut up, I am busy. I am working Cape Race." He was sending passenger's telegrams. Meanwhile, the S.S. Californian had been brought to a halt and was surrounded by ice as the attempt was made to report to the Titanic. Several ice reports were received and acknowledged but never delivered to the bridge. There was an army of stewards, valets and maids on the Titanic but not one spare crew member to carry an urgent ice warning from the radio room to the bridge.

Although Phillips survived the sinking by hanging onto an overturned boat, he died shortly before rescue by the S.S.Carpathia. Bride survived and was treated in the Carpathia's hospital for badly injured feet and frostbite. He was carried to the radio room to assist the exhausted ship's operator with very heavy traffic concerning survivors names and many questions asking for details.

Reference is made to an excellent book by Geoffrey Marcus, entitled "The Maiden Voyage". The book contains photographs of the Marconi wireless equipment and many details about the operators.

DON'T ASK. DON'T TELL
THE OMNIBUS SPECTRUM GRAB

From Florida Skip 11/96

Congress directs FCC to put 2.3 GHz spectrum up for bid. Possibly for the first time ever,Congresshasirected the reallocation of specific frequencies, including 5 MHz that Amateur Radio shares with government services between 2305 and 2310 HMz. During its final hours before adjournment, the 104th Congress approved a provision as part of a much larger appropriations bill that directs the FCC to put 30 MHz of spectrum in the 2.3 GHz region up for competitive auction to help balance the budget.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) had identified for reallocation the amateur segments 2300-2310 MHz and 2390-2400 in May 1994, to reallocation of part of that subband came as no surprise (see QST, Jul 94, p 85 and Aug 94, p 72). Last year hams scored a major victory by getting a primary allocation on the subbands 2390-2400 MHz and 2402-2417 MHz.

The recent congressional action will reallocate 2305 to 2320 MHz and 2345 to 2360 MHz - 30 MHz in all - to "wireless services that are consistent with international agreement concerning spectrum allocations." The action was included in the massive, 2000 page Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, which was passed by Congress and signed by the President. The act now is Public Law 104-208.

Shortly after the measure was introduced in the Congress, ARRL sent messages to House and Senate Commerce Committee and Appropriations staff members to alert them to the League's concerns and the possible impact the bill would have on the amateur allocation at 2300-2310 MHz. The measure also was opposed by the Senate Commerce Committee leadership, which stated that auctions ought to be used only for assignment purposes, not as a means of gaining Federal revenues. The newly reallocated spectrum is to be put up for bid no later than next April.

ARRL Executive Vice President, David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "Congressional action directing the reallocation of specific frequency bands is very unusual, and may even be unprecedented. Setting that issue aside, it is too early to know the implications for Amateur Radio. We have been waiting for the other shoe to drop on 2300-2310 MHz ever since 1994, and to some extent we are still waiting. Perhaps we will at least have the opportunity to strengthen our claim to 2300-2305 MHz."

BAD NEWS - GOOD NEWS

One day Bill Gates, Yelstin and Bill Clinton were summoned by God to a meeting. After assembling God said to them, "You are the three most influential men in the world today and I just want you to know that next Tuesday I am going to destroy the earth."

So after the meeting Yelstin returned to Russia and said, "I have some bad news and I have some very bad news. The bad news is there is a God, and the very bad news is that He is going to destroy the earth on Tuesday."

Clinton returned to Washington and said, "I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that there is a God and the bad news is He is going to destroy the earth next Tuesday."

Bill Gates returned to his offices and called in the staff and said, "I have some good news and some very good news. The good news is there is a God ... and the very good news is we don't have to worry about fixing the problems with Windows 95."

COAX LOVERS (From PCARS Newsletter)

Like most hams who have been using coax cable RG-8/W or RG-59/U you might have a lot of it in your junk box with the braid so corroded that it is impossible to solder properly, no matter how much cleaning and scraping is done. Many hams throw it away.

Recently I have found out how to clean it as bright as a new penny and make it solder like new. Prepare the portion of braid to be cleaned. Have one glass container containing concentrated hydrochloric acid (HCI) obtained at any store specializing in swimming pool products, and another container of boiling water. Immerse the dirty braid in the in the acid, moving it around for not more than a few seconds until it becomes bright. Then immerse it immediately in the hot water, moving it around again, stopping the chemical reaction and preventing damage to the insulation and the metal. Dry the cable. Dip again in the water and dry with a hair dryer to remove leakage in the insulation. I will never discard any coax again.
NOTE: Always be very careful not to let any of the acid splash on your skin, and to have proper ventilation. If acid gets on you, rinse your hand immediately in cold water running full force.
73, Harry Dryer, K4HEN, Key West, FL

Christmas 1996
Seasons Greetings to All!

Canada geese and innumerable species of waterfowl fly overhead by the thousands, their sounds fill the narrow rivers and estuaries of the great Chesapeake Bay. We joined in the migration as sugar maples turned scarlet, pumpkins lit the porches, and early winter winds frosted our feathers. Fall alights a chill and colorful closure to another magical year aboard the sailing vessel Northern Exposure.

After a long road tour of Alaska and Canada during the summer of 1995, we drove our camper to Florida and flew off to the Bahamas on the Chin of Christmas last. There we plied the gin clear and friendly waters of the Abaci Islands until David's birthday in April, when we set sail to find America. It wasn't hard to find.

The sail from Florida to Cape Cod made hardier sailors of both of us as we thrilled at the sight of new shores, and shuddered before storms at sea. From the water, America is especially beautiful, outlined by rivers, marshes, quaint villages, exciting cities, isolated islands and country coves. We feel newly refreshed in our spirit of American splendor. And everywhere we were touched by the gentle kindness of its peoples and their stewardship of community and environment. It was a great sail!

As this holiday wish reaches you, Northern Exposure will be asleep in a snug Virginian harbor. Her two wandering souls will be busy studying Spanish in Antigua, the old capital of Guatemala. There we'll rest til sometime in spring, exploring rain forest, Mayan culture, and the feeling of earth under our salty feet.

And while we'll hear no sleigh bells in Antigua, our hearts will be with you this warm holiday season.

Hugs and kisses to ALL!
WL7CTC David and WL7CTB Jan Vidmar

ED. Note: This couple is from Alaska and got their ham licenses in May 96, via the TARC testing team. They are in the process of touring the world!

TREASURERS REPORT

By K4EOS Clyde Lee

BALANCE FORWARD FROM 1995	2,780.03
DEPOSITS Year to date	10,834.42
TOTAL INCOME	$13,614.45
EXPENDITURE	$7,416.99
BALANCE AS AT 11/30/96	$6,197.46

NOVEMBER MEETING

By Marty WD4JNM, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1915 hours.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence, Andy KE4TQZ read an invitation from IRARC to their Christmas party to be held on Dec. 12 at the Holiday Inn in Cocoa Beach, Fl. Tickets are $12.00 each. Cut off date for ordering of tickets is December 8.

Clara KE4YQL told about the TARC Christmas party to be held on Dec. 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Jaycee Building. Tickets are $7.00 each. Cut off date for ordering tickets is December 15. Catering by Pumpernickels. Program includes installation of new officers. If you wish bring a $5.00 gift. Women bring a woman's gift. Men bring a man's gift.

Clyde K4EOS gave a financial report on the Hamfest, and thanked all the people who helped set up tables, make and put up signs, unloaded food and drink, and cleaned up after. He gave special thanks to Pat KD4LTY for lettering the safety vest worn by those who parked cars; John KE4ZPA for setting up the sound system; Bill KT4CQ for parking the tailgaters, Sherry KF4HTC for the food, and all the rest too numerous to mention.

The balance of the meeting was taken up by the election of officers for 1997. Following is a listing of those nominated and those elected.

NOMINATED	ELECTED
PRESIDENT	
Bud Hughes K4CWG	X
Bob Nedimyer W4VQB	
VICE PRESIDENT	
Pike Abell W4EPU	X
Alan Marsden KC4UUX	
TREASURER	
Clyde Lee K4EOS	X
SECRETARY	
Marty Coin WD4JNM	X
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Alan Marsden KC4UUX	X
Nancy Marsden KD4ITX	X
Warren Murray KS4GP	X
John Renninger KE4ZPA	X
Kay Watson KD4VFQ	
Bob Nedimyer W4VQB	

The meeting was adjourned at 2115 hrs.

THE STRETCHING GAS TANK

By Jo Jordan KE4AEB

Over a period of years I have noticed a very strange phenomenon! The gasoline tank on my Nissan truck is stretching, getting larger, bigger, holding more and more gas.

I have been looking at it sort of checking to see if I could see any stretch marks or weaknesses in the hold-up straps. But they both look in very good shape.

When I first got the truck with the stretching gas tank, it would only hold about 10 gallons. Slowly, over a long period, it held 10.5, then 11, then 11.5 and so on it went.

Just the other day, I put 15.5 gallons in that truck. Where will it end? Will I some day be able to put 20, 30, 50 gallons in it? I hope not, because it still seems to have the same cruising range that it did when it held just a little less than 10 gallons.

Then maybe its not the tank at all. Could it be that as the price goes up, the quantity of a gallon goes down? With one or the other getting larger or smaller, depending on how you look at it, I think it is going to be difficult to find an answer to my question.

I write about this phenomenon because I wonder if anyone else has noticed the same situation with their gas tank. Maybe its the changes in the Ozone causing my problem.

More to follow in a future report! BCNU 73s

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

HAM RADIO SAVES CHRISTMAS FOR MILLIONS OF KIDS:

Once upon a time, in mid December, a storm developed in the Bering Sea just north of the Aleutian Islands. It proceeded northward and by the time it reached the Bering Strait it had turned into a full blown willawa. It crossed over the North Pole still packing high winds and piling up snow drifts 20 feet high, and more. The day before the storm arrived Santa had parked his sleigh outside to check its readiness for the upcoming Christmas trip and left it out over night. When he awoke the next morning, the sleigh was under a huge snow drift.

Santa and his elves worked frantically and dug it out, but the sleigh had been badly damaged by the heavy weight of the snow. There was not time to make repairs before Christmas. Fortunately all of the reindeer were safe and warm in the barn and the toys were sitting in the warehouse ready to be loaded.

Santa was a Novice/Technician plus Amateur operator. Since all other communications were out in the aftermath of the storm, he tuned up on 10 meters and listened on the Novice phone band but heard nothing. He tuned down to the CW portion and faintly heard Mike, a friend of his in Anchorage, Alaska, calling CQ. Santa answered. They exchanged signal reports, RST 449 both ways. Santa proceeded to tell Mike of his predicament. After a difficult schedule Mike finally got the message. Mike phoned a sleigh maker in Anchorage and explained the situation. The sleigh maker agreed to loan Santa a sleigh. But now, it would apparently be impossible to get it to him in time for Christmas.

Mike wouldn't give up. He phoned the Commanding General of the Alaska Air National Guard who had a squadron of C-130s at the local air base. Mike asked the general if they could deliver the sleigh to Santa at the North Pole in time for Christmas. After giving it some thought, the general said he could, but justifying it as a routine training flight. The sleigh was loaded onto the aircraft. Early the next morning, on the eve of Christmas eve, they were airborne.

Meanwhile, back at the North Pole, the storm had passed. Not knowing what had transpired in Anchorage, Santa was outside his igloo, pondering the thought that he would disappoint a lot of kids this year by not delivering toys. Suddenly, he heard the roar of the C-130 overhead. He looked up just in time to see the shiny sleigh fly out of the rear of the aircraft. Almost immediately a huge orange parachute exploded above the sleigh. The sleigh landed right on target near the toy warehouse. The aircraft circled and flew over the drop zone, dipped her wings and Santa saluted. The C-130 disappeared over the horizon.

Santa beckoned the elves, loaded the sleigh, hooked up the reindeer, and up-up and away they went. They arrived in Florida on Christmas eve and all deliveries were made on time, making lots of kids happy.

And that's how HAM RADIO once saved Christmas.

Merry Christmas, 73s es 88s

SHERRY HUGHES KF4HTC
HAS ASKED SANTA TO BE
ESPECIALLY NICE TO THE FOLLOWING
WHO PREPARED FOOD AND/OR
HELPED IN THE KITCHEN AT THE HAMFEST

BECKY LEE
ABBIE MARSDEN
NANCY MARSDEN
CATHI LEVANN
TIFANY THOMAS
SANDY KOLPIN
ORA PROSSER
PAT RENNINGER
BONNIE FROST
JOAN HOAG
SANDY HUGHES
PAT WIDICK
CLARA ABELL
KAY JORDAN
SANDY GREENWALD

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 274. (199 regular, 69 family, 6 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: 000000 JIM HARRIS
AA1HB CHARLIE CHENEY

RENEWALS:
KE4BBP BUBBA STITT
KB4BHS GLEN LEE
KE4BKY JOE HUSSON
WA4CUO BILL HOSKINSON
WA3EKM BRUCE JACOBS
KB4GOP BERNIE FLANAGAN
KD4GPF JOE MEYERS
W9IDS BILL KARR
WD8JLT BRIAN SONNENBERG
AE4NT ARNOLD THRASH
KC4VIO JOSE RAMOS
KC4VIN CAROL RAMOS
K4WSE JOHN WOOD

HAMFESTS:

12/7	Okeechobee
12/7	Ocala
12/7	Miami
12/14	Lake City
01/4-5	Ft. Meyers
01/11-12	Sarasota
01/18	Crystal River
01/19	Pinellas Park
02/1-2	Miami
02/8	Arcadia
02/8	Pensacola
02/15-16	Orlando
02/22	Brooksville
03/1	Zephyrhills
03/15-16	Ft.Walton Beach
03/22	Stuart
03/22	Sebring
03/29	Fanning Springs

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073